# **Real Estate Fraud Prosecution**

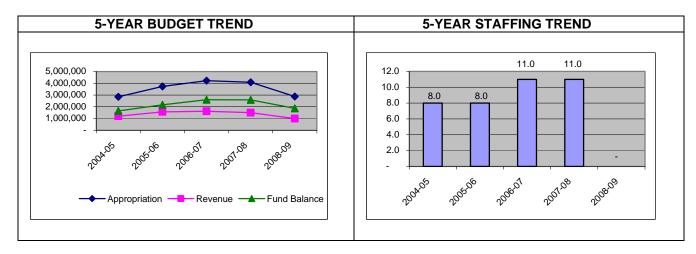
## **DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES**

On January 23, 1996, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 96-14 to allow the county to collect, pursuant to Government Code Section 27388, a \$2 fee upon recording documents. These monies, in accordance with state law, are used to fund the Real Estate Fraud unit that investigates and prosecutes real estate fraud crimes in the county. This budget unit funds five investigators, one supervising investigator, two Deputy District Attorneys, one investigative technician, one office assistant and one secretary.

In this county the district attorney, not only prosecutes, but investigates all real estate fraud cases. The workload has steadily increased in the last several years and additional staffing has been added to meet the demand.

There will be no staffing associated with this budget unit in 2008-09. Staff that provide these services are budgeted in the District Attorney's Criminal Prosecution budget unit.

#### **BUDGET HISTORY**



#### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

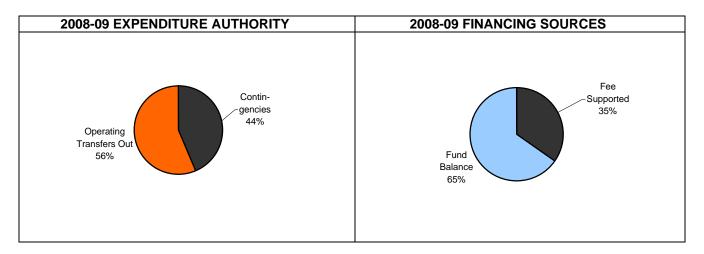
|                      |           |           |           | 2007-08   |           |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | 2004-05   | 2005-06   | 2006-07   | Modified  | 2007-08   |
|                      | Actual    | Actual    | Actual    | Budget    | Estimate  |
| Appropriation .      | 1,004,667 | 1,095,372 | 1,335,055 | 4,088,637 | 1,618,683 |
| Departmental Revenue | 1,521,220 | 1,523,829 | 1,323,042 | 1,500,000 | 900,000   |
| Fund Balance         |           | ,         | ,         | 2,588,637 |           |
| Budgeted Staffing    |           |           |           | 11.0      |           |

In accordance with Section 29009 of the State Government Code, the entire unreserved fund balance must be appropriated each year. Accordingly, expenditures in this fund are typically less than budget. The amount not expended is carried over to the subsequent year's budget.

Departmental revenue in 2007-08 are less than budget due directly to the housing market/sub-prime mortgage loans fall out.



## **ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED BUDGET**



**GROUP: Law and Justice DEPARTMENT: District Attorney** FUND: Real Estate Fraud Prosecution

BUDGET UNIT: REB DAT **FUNCTION: Public Protection ACTIVITY: Judicial** 

|                         | 2004-05   | 2005-06   | 2006-07   | 2007-08   | 2007-08<br>Final | 2008-09<br>Proposed | Change<br>From<br>2007-08<br>Final |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
|                         | Actual    | Actual    | Actual    | Estimate  | Budget           | Budget              | Budget                             |
| <u>Appropriation</u>    |           |           |           |           |                  |                     |                                    |
| Salaries and Benefits   | 880,196   | 975,957   | 1,123,084 | 1,408,509 | 1,433,481        | -                   | (1,433,481)                        |
| Services and Supplies   | 83,902    | 78,525    | 125,761   | 142,092   | 113,258          | -                   | (113,258)                          |
| Central Computer        | 3,945     | 6,133     | 7,327     | 6,879     | 6,879            | -                   | (6,879)                            |
| Vehicles                | -         | -         | 41,902    | 16,203    | 23,000           | -                   | (23,000)                           |
| Transfers               | 36,624    | 34,757    | 36,981    | 45,000    | 54,467           | -                   | (54,467)                           |
| Contingencies           | <u> </u>  | <u> </u>  | <u> </u>  | <u>-</u>  | 2,457,552        | 1,252,027           | (1,205,525)                        |
| Total Appropriation     | 1,004,667 | 1,095,372 | 1,335,055 | 1,618,683 | 4,088,637        | 1,252,027           | (2,836,610)                        |
| Operating Transfers Out | <u>-</u>  | <u> </u>  |           |           |                  | 1,617,927           | 1,617,927                          |
| Total Requirements      | 1,004,667 | 1,095,372 | 1,335,055 | 1,618,683 | 4,088,637        | 2,869,954           | (1,218,683)                        |
| Departmental Revenue    |           |           |           |           |                  |                     |                                    |
| Current Services        | 1,521,220 | 1,517,351 | 1,323,042 | 900,000   | 1,500,000        | 1,000,000           | (500,000)                          |
| Other Financing Sources |           | 6,478     | <u> </u>  |           |                  | <u> </u>            |                                    |
| Total Revenue           | 1,521,220 | 1,523,829 | 1,323,042 | 900,000   | 1,500,000        | 1,000,000           | (500,000)                          |
| Fund Balance            |           |           |           |           | 2,588,637        | 1,869,954           | (718,683)                          |
| Budgeted Staffing       |           |           |           |           | 11.0             | -                   | (11.0)                             |

The 2008-09 budget reflects a technical change in the way the asset forfeiture staffing and expenses are budgeted. Employee/positions and expenses have been moved to the primary District Attorney's Criminal Prosecution budget unit and corresponding fines and forfeitures revenue from this budget unit will be transferred out to cover those costs. This change was requested because Real Estate Fraud revenue is difficult to predict and can vary greatly from year to year, making year-end processing and budget procedures very difficult. The department will also have greater flexibility in making staff reductions in the event of declining revenue (reassignments and absorb through attritions).

